



Downtown | Stephen Avenue

Key Statistics

\$1.1M

Current project funding

2.1km

Project length of
Downtown Calgary's 'next mile'

2018-2020

Strategize and plan

2021-2022

Design, test, and refine

2023-beyond

Invest, transform, operate, and enjoy

\$15.5M

Current budget request to advance
through Design and into Phase 1 of Build

The Future of Stephen Avenue

Re-imagining Stephen and 8 Avenues from City Hall to Mewata Armoury

Project Vision

The future vision for Stephen Avenue ("The Avenue") is that it serves as Calgary's main connector to arts, culture and commerce, and is a dynamic stage for experimentation and innovation. It will help create "complete communities" in Calgary's downtown by attracting new businesses and providing amenities for a new generation of downtown's workforce. The Avenue will serve as a catalyst for a resilient economy, enabling adaptation towards downtown's future and accelerating economic diversification by attracting new businesses and residents to the area.

Project Approach

The project began by creating a holistic, overarching vision for "The Avenue" with a focus on design, economic investment and governance as key success drivers. This first phase — Public Realm Study — was completed in Fall 2020 and resulted in a road map for success and six strategic moves to focus The City's efforts to transform the Avenue. Phase 1B, Activate and Experiment, is currently underway and is piloting new ideas to address urgent needs identified by citizens and stakeholders. Lessons learned from Phase 1B will inform future design, investment and governance decisions in subsequent phases.

Implementation Strategy

With the vision in place and \$500,000 for short-term interventions, the project is well-positioned for further design development. Given the size, budget estimate and complexity of the project, phased tendering and construction is recommended.

Key Considerations

- West Phase \$25-35M
- East Phase \$25-35M
- Address end of life cycle conditions
- Restore the Avenue's position as Calgary's premiere pedestrian downtown amenity
- Spatial extent of phasing TBD based on stakeholder input
- Estimated three years per phase based on typical public realm construction practices (concurrent or separate)
- Focus on maintaining business continuity during construction

